

National Crime Victims' Rights Week on April 18–24, 2010. This year's theme, Crime Victim's Rights: Fairness, Dignity, and Respect, is a reminder of the progress our country has made as well as the work that still must be accomplished.

As a former U.S. Capitol Police Officer, I understand the effects violent crime can have on a family and community. I recognize the significant role government and other supporting agencies must play in assisting victims of sexual assault and preventing violence. We must never forget that sexual assault is a violent crime with devastating implications.

One in six women and one in thirty-three men reported experiencing rape or attempted rape in the United States. In 2008, an estimated 222,000 rapes or sexual assaults on individuals age 12 and older were reported. One in four women will experience domestic violence from a partner in their lifetime. Each year, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner. These numbers, while terrible, grossly underestimate the problem. Many cases of sexual assault and domestic violence are not reported because victims are afraid to tell the police, their family, or their friends about the abuse.

Such violence affects not only the victims of abuse, but their families, communities, and, most unfortunately, their children. Women, men, and children throughout our country suffer the long-lasting effects of sexual assault and domestic violence through the emotional and physical scars they carry each day.

It is clear we must do more to prevent these crimes and help those who are victimized. I have long supported efforts to recognize, prevent, and combat violent crimes committed against women and children, and I am always seeking to improve Federal laws and programs regarding this issue. In 1990, I was a cosponsor of the original Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, proposal, and I supported passage of the bill when it became law in 1994. Additionally, I support the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act, FVPSA, and I am pushing for greater funding for FVPSA programs and grants.

Countless organizations throughout our country are helping victims of abuse every day, thanks in part to VAWA and FVPSA. It is essential to recognize the organizations committed to providing victims of abuse the assistance they need to overcome the trauma of violence. Please join me in commending the dedicated efforts of the individuals who work tirelessly to stop violence in our communities.

TRIBUTE TO MARK LEET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to honor Mr. Mark Leet of Flemingsburg, KY, for recently receiving the middle school Teacher of the Year award presented by the Veterans

of Foreign Wars of the United States, VFW. Mr. Leet was recognized by the VFW for his dedication to educating students about the importance of citizenship and patriotism.

Today, I wish to honor Mr. Leet's dedication to the children of the Commonwealth and congratulate him on this well deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA K. VAUGHAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise to congratulate Miss Jessica K. Vaughan of Bowling Green, KY. Miss Vaughan was recently selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to receive the Patriot's Pen scholarship award. This scholarship program is a youth essay contest that gives middle school students from across the Nation the opportunity to articulate their views on democracy.

Miss Vaughan, an eighth grade student, was selected to receive this award based on her essay entitled "Does Patriotism Still Matter?" I wish to congratulate Miss Vaughan on her hard work, perseverance and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MISS SOPHIA BROWN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Miss Sophia Brown of Louisville, KY. Miss Brown was recently selected by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States to receive the National Voice of Democracy scholarship. This scholarship competition gives high school students from across the Nation the opportunity to write and then record a broadcast based on a selected theme.

I am particularly proud since Miss Brown is a sophomore at my alma mater, duPont Manual High School. She was awarded the scholarship based on her broadcast pertaining to American heroes. I wish to congratulate Miss Brown on her hard work, perseverance and dedication.

TRICARE DEPENDENT COVERAGE EXTENSION ACT

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act.

Last month, President Obama signed the health care reform bill into law. It was a historic day. For the first time in American history we committed to ending the abuses of the insurance industry. We committed to covering every single American. It extends the solvency of Medicare for nearly a decade. It ends the punitive practices of insurance companies that deny coverage based on gender, age, or race. It expands universal coverage to 32 million Americans who have been without insurance. And we pay for it with an emphasis on wellness and quality. We say goodbye to quantity medicine by emphasizing quality medicine. It was a very big deal. But there is more to do.

I voted for health care reform because I listened to the people of Mary-

land at diners and in the grocery store, at roundtables, tele-town halls, in hearings, and in letters and emails. Time and again I heard, "Save my Medicare." I heard, "Don't take my mammograms away." I heard, "They turned me down for health insurance because I had a C-Section." I voted for health care reform because I listened to the stories of the people. I know that the best ideas come from the people.

Over the recess I heard from another group in Maryland. I met with my wonderful Veterans Advisory Board. They represent Vets from World War Two to Desert Storm. They are my eyes and ears in the veterans' community. One of my board asked me a question. He said, "We think health care reform is great but we think there is a problem." The part of the health care bill that extends parents' health insurance to kids age 26 and younger left out military families. I promised him that if there was a problem, that I would fix it! Wow was he right. Military families in the TRICARE system were left out.

TRICARE is a critical benefit for our military and their families. It covers active duty military, retired military, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reservist in a certain status, and the uniform corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. They were all left out. That is why I am here today—to right this wrong.

I am proud to join Senator UDALL and my colleagues in introducing the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act. This bill says that if military children can't get insurance through an employer that their parents can keep them on their TRICARE insurance until they reach age of 26. This is the right thing to do. If the kids of a hedge fund manager can stay on their parents' health care until they are 26, then kids in military families should be able to be covered to age 26 too.

I am so proud of the men and women of our military. I stand here today saluting them for their honor, courage, and commitment to our country. Make no mistake. I have my marching orders. I commit to making this right for them. I will fight to see this bill signed into law. Because promises made must be promises kept.

RECOGNIZING THE PETER M. GOODRICH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to call the Senate's attention to the inspiring work of Donald and Sarah "Sally" Goodrich of Bennington, VT, through their efforts to turn their own devastating personal tragedy into new opportunity and hope for children and families a world away in Afghanistan.

Confronted by the death of their son Peter aboard the flight that struck the south tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, Don and Sally